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Statement of Senator Mansfield

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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The letter from former President Eisenhower to Congressman Halleck is another example of how well the former President and his administration managed the news and misled the people. Far from being a frugal budget balancing team the previous administration left five budget deficits in eight years, added \$23 billion to the national debt, incurred the largest peace-time deficit (\$12.4 billion in 1959) in history, and spent \$182 billion more in its eight fiscal years than Truman did in the preceding eight.

This criticism of the Eisenhower administration is a criticism not of its budgets, but of its denial of the fact -- it is a criticism of the failure to recognize that a growing Nation and an industrious people need and can afford growing public services and a larger budget.

For the three fiscal years from July 1, 1958 through June 30, 1961, years for which the Eisenhower administration must take most of the responsibility, Federal budget expenditures rose by \$10.1 billion, of which \$5.2 billion was for defense, space, and interest and \$4.9 billion was for all other functions of the Government. For the three years starting July 1, 1961, through President Kennedy's budget for the year ending June 30, 1964, the proposed increase in spending for governmental functions other than defense, space, and interest is less than \$4.5 billion -- about \$1/2 billion less than Ike's last three years. On the other hand, the increase for defense, space, and interest proposed by President Kennedy is substantially larger than in Ike's last three years -- about two and one-third times as great. But then the previous administration may have

